

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended): Winch system comprising a retaining device (1) for a cable (4), comprising a drum (2) for containing at least two windings of the cable on the casing face (13) thereof, said drum being mounted on bearings such that it can rotate, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the distance from the casing face of said drum to the axis of rotation (12) of said bearings varies around the periphery of said drum, ~~characterised in that~~ said winch system comprises a cable storage having a winding/unwinding drum (7) separate from said retaining device.

Claim 2 (original): Winch system according to Claim 1, wherein at least one location on the periphery of the casing face is essentially coincident with the axis of rotation of said bearing.

Claim 3 (currently amended): Winch system according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein said casing face is circular cylindrical.

Claim 4 (currently amended): Winch system according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the drum is driven by a motor (10).

Claim 5 (currently amended): Winch system according to ~~one of the preceding~~
~~claims~~claim 1, wherein grooves ~~(3)~~ for accommodating the cable have been made in said casing
face.

Claim 6 (currently amended): Winch system according to ~~one of the preceding~~
~~claims~~claim 1, wherein the surface of the casing face is provided with means to obtain more
friction between the casing face and the cable.

Claim 7 (currently amended): Winch system according to ~~one of the preceding~~,
~~claims~~claim 1, wherein said drum is designed to accommodate a stock of cable.

Claim 8 (currently amended): Winch system according to ~~one of the preceding~~
~~claims~~claim 1 comprising braking means.

Claim 9 (currently amended): Tug having a winch device with a winch system ~~according~~
~~to one of Claims 1-7~~comprising a retaining device for a cable, comprising a drum for containing
at least two windings of the cable on the casing face thereof, said drum being mounted on
bearing such that it can rotate, wherein the distance from the casing face of said drum to the axis
of rotation of said bearings varies around the periphery of said drum, said winch system
comprising a cable storage having a winding/unwinding drum separate from said retaining

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device, wherein the cable release point/pick-up point with respect to said boat can be adjusted over 360° in an essentially horizontal plane.

Claim 10 (original): Tug according to Claim 9, wherein the axis of said drum in the unloaded state is essentially vertical.